

Hawaii Marine Lifestyles



MISSION: HISTORY

Mission Houses Museum offers programs, history lessons

Story and photos by **Kristen Wong**
Photojournalist

HONOLULU — During the 19th century, missionaries of the Protestant faith arrived in the Hawaiian islands, by order of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. The Boston organization met Henry Opu-kahaia, a young Hawaiian man, and wanted to share their religion throughout his island home.

Today, three houses once belonging to the missionaries were preserved, known as the Mission Houses Museum. The Hawaiian Mission Children's Society established the museum in 1923. The nonprofit organization is made up of members descended from the missionaries, or "mikenele" as the Hawaiians called them. The society continues to maintain this National Historic Landmark.

The Mission Houses Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For a small fee, the museum offers tours Tuesday through Saturday, every hour starting at 11 a.m. and the last one at 3 p.m. The museum also arranges group tours, such as elementary schools.

"We get a nice swath of people," said Mike Smola, the curator of Public Programs at Mission Houses Museum.

Smola said the museum gets approximately 30,000 visitors annually.

The three existing mission houses, each constructed approximately 10 years apart from each other, accommodated well-known missionaries such as Levi Chamberlain and Hiram Bingham. The oldest is called Ka Hale Luau, or "The Frame House." Its original home was miles away on the east coast of North America. The other two houses are made of coral, respectively, Ka Hale Kamala, "The Chamberlain House," and Ka Hale Pa'i, "The Printing Office."

Ka Hale Pa'i was significant because it was created to print bibles for the Hawaiian people, who kept no record of their language or customs. The missionaries also helped to create a "Hawaiian alphabet."

But the museum offers more than a simple tour. From storytelling to craft fairs to ghost hunting, there are various events offered throughout the year. There is also a Café and Tea Parlor open Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and open for afternoon tea, on Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Joyel Horita and Ray Sukanuma of Honolulu read the tombstone of Lucy Goodell Thurston, during Cemetery Pupu Theater, Saturday.

"Just the variety keeps us coming back," said Michelle Baie, of Honolulu.

Baie and her husband, Dick, have visited the museum numerous times. Dick Baie said he enjoys the printing press demonstrations the museum holds.

Recently, the Mission Houses Museum hosted one of its newer programs, "Cemetery Pupu Theater." Its inaugural performance was in August 2011, and an average of 50 to 75 people usually attend. "Cemetery Pupu Theater" is held at Oahu Cemetery, on Nuuanu Avenue.

For a fee, visitors enjoy a live performance and refreshments. Tour guides lead visitors in separate groups around the grounds. Actors stand at specific graves, dressed in period costume, and bring to life the story of an individual buried in the cemetery.

"I thought it was a unique venue," said Lisa Reichman, of Honolulu. "[It's a] unique concept to have [actors playing] different people who were buried here tell us their stories."

See MUSEUM, C-3



Patrons of the Mission Houses Museum's Cemetery Pupu Theater listen to the story of John Papa Ii, a 19th century Hawaii politician, Saturday.

PASS REVIEW

Your weekly guide to the best aspects of entertainment

Welcome to the Pass In Review, your number one source for cinema, music, videogame, book and product reviews. The Pass In Review crew consists of more than 10 critics, each with their own idea of what makes a movie, album, game, product or book great. So be sure to take advantage of the Better Know A Critic section, which spotlights this week’s critics to better help you choose the critic with opinions most like your own. Using our breakthrough four-point scale system, you can quickly decipher what is worth your time and what isn’t, or read the full review for an in-depth analysis and explanation of the rating. The rating system uses ammunition and range terminology, so if you’re not familiar, here’s a quick breakdown of the ratings ...

- 1/4 — No Impact, No Idea**
Horrendous. Among the worst of the worst in its genre. Dedicating time to this is not only wasteful, but unforgivable. Avoid at all costs.


- 2/4 — High And To The Right**
Mediocrity at its best. Lacks a few things that might have made it really good. A decent time waster, partake only if you have nothing better to do.


- 3/4 — On Target**
Praiseworthy. A great endeavor, not quite an instant classic but still very entertaining. This is a sound investment of your time.


- 4/4 — Confirmed Kill**
Genius. In the top 10 percent of its genre. This is the stuff legends are made of. Missing out on it would be a disservice to yourself.



So, there you have it and we hope you enjoy our weekly reviews. Don’t forget, The Hawaii Marine accepts submissions from its readers so if you consider yourself a film buff, music aficionado, gaming geek or bookworm feel free to submit your own reviews.

Better Know A Critic



SAUTER

Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter believes that a good movie begins with a good story. The story needs to be well balanced between the chemistry and variety of characters with an original plot or setting that keeps the reader or audience up on its toes.



WONG

Kristen Wong admits she sometimes has to be dragged to movies that she later finds to be outstanding. She prefers fantasy driven movies, like Lord of the Rings, the Harry Potter films, and The Matrix Trilogy. She owns more movie posters than she has wall space and continues to collect more as she goes. She also loves to summarize all of her favorite movies to curious and unsuspecting folks.

Being ‘Brave’ and red-headed is not enough

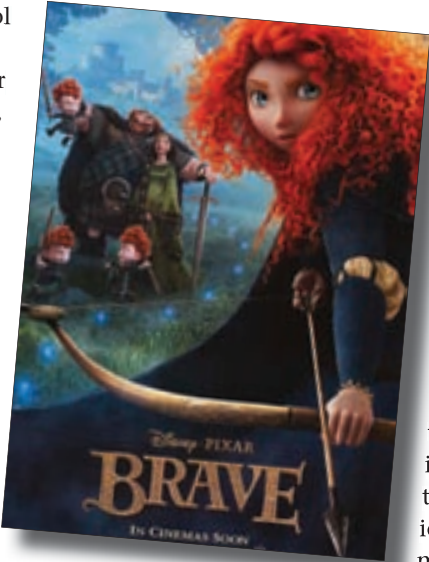
Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter
Combat Correspondent

When I first saw the trailer to “Brave” in movie theaters, I wasn’t really interested in a movie about an apparent fairy tale set in the most northern portion of the British Isles. But as the release date drew nearer, critics, who viewed the film during pre-screenings, gave it positive reviews. After I read those reviews and learned that the film was actually a Pixar film, I decided to give “Brave” a shot.

From an early age, Princess Merida (Kelly MacDonald) was groomed by her mother, Queen Elinor (Emma Thompson), to one day succeed her and become queen of the highland people. But to much disapproval from her mother, Merida wants nothing to do with being lady-like and keeping with age-old traditions. Instead, Merida prefers adventure, archery and living life. Feeling that her mother can’t communicate with her and understand how she feels,

Merida searches for a way to change her fate, only to find that the road will test whether she can control her fate and others.

Compared to other Disney/Pixar classics, I’m sure this one will be forgotten pretty quickly. What made Pixar films great are how memorable the characters are, like Buzz Lightyear and Wall-E. I do find the characters in “Brave” to be entertaining, partially because of the all Scottish-accented cast, but none really stand out as memorable.



The plot itself has a nice flow to keep the audience’s attention but I noticed that the film has a few darker tones in a Shakespearean sense because characters do talk about killing, even of family members. Just a note, the darker material may be too intense for younger viewers.

“Brave” is really a see-it-once-and-forget-it film, especially for people who’re fans of the early Pixar films. I can’t really say that this film could have been better because there isn’t much to improve upon other than finding another idea to spend a lot of money on.



‘Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Hunter’ an action-packed treat

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist

“Four score and seven years ago ... our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal” — unless they’re undead, blood-sucking monsters.

If you take “Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter” at face value, it’s quite an entertaining movie. I had some difficulty getting through the book, though the idea was interesting. It has many details from President Lincoln’s life that slowed it down, and was more historical than fantastical. With all due respect for President Lincoln, he is still a normal person like the rest of us, and like everyone else has less than exciting moments in his life. The movie, however, which was also written by Seth Grahame-Smith, author of the book of the same title, boiled the story down to its basic essentials, wasting no time, making it very engaging.

It begins in the early 1800s with our 16th president of the United States as a child, working as a rail-splitter with his father. Young Abraham Lincoln witnesses his childhood friend, William, an African-American, being whipped. Furious, Lincoln disobeys his father’s warning not to get involved and attempts to save his friend by swinging an ax at William’s attacker. Lincoln’s family loses their job as a result, but his father still owes money to the employer, Jack Barts. When Lincoln’s father refuses to pay, Barts kills Lincoln’s mother.

Lincoln becomes obsessed with avenging his mother and killing Barts. It’s not until he is a young man that he learns Barts is a vampire, and there are many more like him who make up the majority of the population in the south, harvesting slaves for sustenance. With the help of Henry Sturgis, (who was unwillingly turned into a vampire years ago) and a few good friends, Lincoln seeks to free the slaves and destroy the vampires who are hell bent on taking over the country.



If you tend to be sensitive about inaccuracy in the historical portrayal that remains beneath the bloodshed, this is probably not the movie for you. But like I said at the beginning, take it for what it is: a colorful, imaginative, but fictional mask, embellishing a real story.

Vampires or no vampires, the Civil War and the slave trade were still very significant historical events, and the filmmakers succeeded in giving them a great deal of the limelight. Sure, I enjoyed the “mad skills” of a former President of the United States as he swiftly dispatched nasty, snarling vampires. There’s blood, fire, explosions, many fantastical action-sequences and more thrills, chills and spills than you can swing a silver-plated ax at.

But the tears silently spilled down my cheeks as I saw Mary Todd Lincoln mourn the death of her child (who did die young in real life). I saw the emotion in the eyes and the cries of hundreds of Union and Confederate soldiers. I saw the American flag waving through the clouds of gun-smoke. I watched slaves taking shelter in the famous Underground Railroad. The movie even brings to life real historical figures, including the famous Harriet Tubman, Lincoln’s friend Joshua Speed and Confederate president Jefferson Davis. It’s enough to give any young teenager the motivation to learn more about history by presenting it in such a simple, entertaining way.

I’ve left the movie theater and the book with much curiosity about the man who endured so much in his life, and yet changed the face of the country we know today, as he says in the movie — “not with my ax, but with my words.”



Prices: All shows are \$3.25 for adults and \$2.25 for children. For ticket pricing, the Base Theater Box Office defines an adult as a patron 12 and older and defines a child as a patron from 6 to 11. Children 5 and younger are admitted free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 and younger. Patrons must present their military identification card when purchasing tickets. Call **254-7642** for recorded information.

“Dark Shadows” PG-13 Today | 7:15 p.m.

“Safe” R Today | 9:45 p.m.

“Battleship” PG13 Saturday | 7:15 p.m.

“Think Like A Man” PG-13 Saturday | 9:45 p.m.

“The Avengers” PG-13 Sunday | 2 p.m.

“Safe” R Sunday | 6:30 p.m.

“Battleship” PG13 Wednesday | 6:30 p.m.

From segregation to a single Corps of ‘Green Marines’

Coral Anika Theill

Special to Hawaii Marine

Editor’s Note: On Thursday, surviving members of the first group of African-American Marines were honored with the Congressional Gold Medal. Theill interviewed retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Robert Talmadge who joined the Marine Corps in 1947 and currently resides in Kailua, Hawaii. Talmadge experienced not only the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in Korea, but the segregation of white and black Marines in his early days of serving the Marine Corps.



Master Gunnery Sgt. Robert Talmadge

Seventy years after the first African American Marine recruit reported to train at the segregated camp called Montford Point at Camp Lejeune, N.C., the Montford Point Marines are finally getting the recognition they deserve.

In 1994, when retired Lt. Col. Thomas Kalus first organized our Aloha Chapter of the Chosin Few, International, one of our members was retired Lt. Gen. Alpha L. Bowser. He was the G-3 planning officer for the Inchon Landing and other 1st Marine Division operations for the following year, including the historic battle of the Chosin Reservoir.

The three of us became good friends and the general would invite Tom and me over to his house in Kailua, and we would talk story. One particular evening the general related this story of how, in 1949, he traveled from the Fleet Marine Force Headquarters at Pearl Harbor (it would not move to Halawa Heights until 1951) to Camp Pendleton, California to conduct a Force Inspection of units there.

One key feature of Headquarters Marine Corps Inspections, and Force Inspections, is that any Marine can ask for an audience with the senior inspector.

When he was a colonel, Bowser was the senior inspector. The first man entered, a Marine of African descent, and Bowser asked him a few questions in small talk. He said, “Now you obviously have some thing that concerns you, would you tell me what it is?”

The young Marine, in green dress uniform, said, “Sir, I want to be a Marine!”

Chuckling a little, Bowser said, “Well, you are a Marine, aren’t you?”

The young Marine said, “Yes sir, but because I am black, I cannot be a Marine like other Marines. I want to be a fight-

ing Marine, like white Marines are, but I can only work in the warehouse and handling supplies.”

After talking a while longer on the subject, Bowser told him that he would put this information in his official report. He told the young Marine he could go and asked him to have the first sergeant send in the next Marine.

The second Marine was also of African descent and with the same request.

Bowser basically repeated what he had told the first man, dismissed him and told him to ask the first sergeant to send the next man in. Another Marine of African descent entered.

Bowser stopped him and said, “Would you step back outside a minute and ask the first sergeant to come in and see me?”

When the first sergeant came in and closed the door, Bowser asked him how many more black Marines he had waiting, and the first sergeant replied, “Fifteen, sir!”

After all of them entered, Bowser discussed the matter with them and told them that there seemed to be a common problem here. He assured them that he would include it in his report to the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Forces Pacific.

In 1952, the former commanding general, FMFPac, Lt. Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd, was transferred to Washington, D.C., and assigned as the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Once in office, he realized that desegregation was going to happen. He grabbed the bull by the horns and set out to make desegregation in our Corps a reality.

Orders went out to Marine Corps commanders to set up General Military Subject classes, in racial integration, throughout the Marine Corps.

I was an instructor at Marine Corps Supply Schools, located in the old quarters formerly containing the segregated boot camp at Montford Point. It would later be renamed Camp Johnson, in honor of the first American Marine of African Ancestry to achieve the rank of Sergeant Major in the United States Marine Corps. I sat through numerous classes on desegregation, as the Corps worked to become a single Corps of Green Marines.

Upon completion of our leave time and our return to Parris Island, we reported in to Casual Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, where all returning recruits went until their permanent duty station assignments were issued. When our listing was finally posted on the barrack’s bulletin board, I saw that mine, in typical military talk, stated that I was being transferred to MCSS, MCB, CLNC or Marine Corps Supply Schools, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for schooling in the Basic Supply Administration School. My friend George had a similar assignment, although his was to the Personnel Administration School, there at Parris Island.

I did not really appreciate being sent to a school, as in my junior year, I had dropped out of public school and was not keen on going back into a classroom. Actually I wanted to be an infantry Marine, in the style of old-time actor, John Wayne, but at that point in time the Marine Corps had a need for administrative supply Marines and I had no choice. But through the years I have learned that the Marine Corps had placed me properly, as I learned to like what I was doing and also learned that Supply and Administration (where George was assigned) were the two best occupational fields for promotion, as supply men and administration men were needed at every post and station the Corps had throughout the world.

And while I was there attending supply classes, I was to learn why we had not seen any Americans of African descent at Parris Island while going through recruit

training. We, the other recruits assigned to supply training and I, arrived at Camp Lejeune in late February of 1948. In April, the Marine Corps Base Commanding General, Franklin A. Hart, scheduled a commanding general’s inspection on the parade ground just a block down the street from our barracks. When the day arrived, we fell out as the Supply Schools Battalion, with its various companies, Supply, Motor Transport, Disbursing and Food Service.

When formed up, we were marched down the street to the base parade ground and into ranks with the other base units, Headquarters Battalion, Service Battalion, Engineering Schools Battalion and others. As soon as our units were ready, I noticed that to our left, between our Supply Schools Battalion and the Headquarters Battalion, there was an extremely long open space. I wondered why we were not closing it up as it was almost time for the arrival of the commanding general and the start of the inspection.

Suddenly I noticed that to our right, coming down the main highway, was a long convoy of vehicles led by Military Police vehicles with their emergency lights flashing. As the convoy drew closer, I noted that it contained a number of Cattle Cars. (Cattle Cars were semi-trailers, with windows, doors and folding bench style seats, used to transport large numbers of troops).

I could see as they passed, that these vehicles were loaded, as standing troops could be seen through the windows, but not in detail. The convoy passed by on the highway, went almost up to the flag pole at the circle, then turned left, came on to the parade ground and proceeded down the front of the formation until the lead vehicle stopped in front of us, just to our right.

A black Marine noncommissioned officer got out of the jeep, let out a roaring command and the doors to the Cattle Cars opened and nothing but black Marines came out, hundreds of them, falling into formations in front of us. They were then marched to our left and filled in that long opened area of my earlier concern.

I was stunned!

For more information about the historic camps, see <http://www.marines.mil/unit/tecom/mccsss/Pages/Camp%20History/default.aspx>

from MUSEUM, C-3

Reichman said the experience was as if the group was talking with someone they knew personally.

“The tour has been quite a draw,” Smola said. “This cemetery theater event has been a success for us. It’s a different way of presenting history.”

The purpose of the tour is to give people a perspective of history from “first person interpreters,” according to Smola. By presenting the story of a deceased person through a living actor, visitors have the opportunity to gain “an emotional connection” to the people of the past.

“I think it helps people understand the past better,” said Thomas Woods, the executive director of the Mission Houses Museum. “Every story here tonight connects with missionaries’ impact on life in Hawaii.”

Since the event began, new stories have been introduced, and some visitors come to Cemetery Pupu Theater again to hear them.

Honolulu resident Hilary Moody and her husband came for their second theater event on June 22. This time, they brought along their family and a friend.

“I was really excited to bring my kids to this one,” Moody said. “The last one was really well done.”

The cemetery tour and the museum are particularly close to Moody, because her ancestors are buried at Oahu Cemetery, and she is a descendant of Gerrit P.

Judd, a missionary and the first physician to arrive on the islands.

“My ancestors are buried next to such amazing people,” Moody said.

Moody’s son, Tim, volunteers with the museum and its events.

“Every program [the museum puts] on, they do an amazing job,” Tim Moody said. “I think they tell a very interesting and realistic story [about the missionaries].”

Moody’s daughter, Laura, said she particularly enjoyed hearing the story of Lucy Goodell Thurston.

“I thought her story was very different from all the others,” Laura Moody said.

Hannah Isihida, the theater was a “family event.” She and her family attended the event to watch her

grandmother perform in “Cemetery Pupu Theater.” Among with Hannah, Helena Ishida said she found it “easy to engage” with the performers. Each performer portrayed their person as though time allowed each person the opportunity to return briefly to 2012, and tell their story.

“They’re not stuck to the script,” said Kailua resident Will Fuller. “If it rained, they mentioned the rain.”

Fuller said the theater was not only intimate, but well organized and historically accurate.

“If [patrons] want to know more about the history of Oahu, they should bring their family for sure,” Fuller said.

For more information about the Mission Houses Museum, visit <http://www.missionhouses.org>.